

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1-4 and 6-32 are rejected, and claim 5 is objected to. By the present amendment, claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 18, 24, and 32 are amended, and new claims 33-35 are hereby added. As the amendments, and new claims are fully supported by the application as filed, the amendments and new claims add no new matter.

In view of the above-described amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of claims 1-32 and consideration of new claims 33-35 are respectfully requested.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC § 112 for including hydroxyl propanone as an aromatic alcohol. Claim 18, as amended, no longer recites hydroxyl propanone. In addition, claim 1, which has been amended to recite the aromatic alcohols listed in original claim 18 does not recite hydroxyl propanone. Applicant submits that these amendments overcome the rejection.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-17, and 19-32 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansen. (US 6,162,938)

Claims 1, 12, 24, and 32 have been amended to recite that the prepolymer composition comprises an excess of an aromatic alcohol selected from phenol, 3-methoxyphenol, 4-methoxyphenol, nonylphenol, meta-cresol, para-cresol, 4-chlorophenol, meta-hydroxybenzaldehyde, ortho-hydroxybenzaldehyde, para-hydroxybenzaldehyde, hydroquinone, 3-hydroxyacetophenone, and 4-hydroxyacetophenone, or any combination thereof. None of the prepolymer compositions of Hansen comprise an excess of one or any combination of these aromatic alcohols. Lacking a prepolymer composition that comprises an excess or one or more of these aromatic alcohols, Hansen does not anticipate claims 1, 12, 24, or 32, as amended. Claims 2-4, 6-10, 13-17, 19-23, and 25-31 depend from claims 1, 12, and 24, respectively, and for the same reasons are not anticipated by Hansen.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite prepolymers comprising terminal NCO groups that are end-capped with a combination of silane group and aromatic groups. None of the prepolymer compositions of Hansen comprise prepolymers whose NCO groups are end-capped

with both silane groups and aromatic alcohol groups. Lacking a prepolymer that is partially end-capped with silane groups and partially end-capped with aromatic alcohol groups, Hansen does not anticipate claim 11.

Objections

Claim 5 is objected to as depending from rejected claim 1. Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 1 overcome the rejection and the objection.

In view of the amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-32 and new claims 33-35 are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of such allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present amendments, she is encouraged to contact the attorney of record, Pamela A. Docherty at (216) 622-8416.

Respectfully submitted,

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